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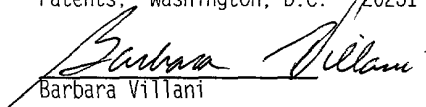
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Applicant(s): J. OZAWA et al

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Barbara Villani

For : FASTENER

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No. 06-1378.**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**Asst. Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

S I R :

IN THE SPECIFICATION:**Page 1:** Please insert the following as the first sentence:--This application is a U.S. National Phase Application
under 35 USC 371 of International Application PCT/JP01/06421
(not published in English) filed July 26, 2001.--**IN THE CLAIMS:**Please substitute amended claims 4, 6, 8, 9, 11, 13, 15, 16,
18, 20, 22 and 23, and add new claims 25-36 as follows:4. (amended) The fastener according to claim 2, wherein the
special thread ridges (422) comprise thread ridges obtained by
subjecting common thread ridges to compressive deformation in a
diametrical direction.6. (amended) The fastener according to claim 2, wherein the
special thread ridges (422) have a greater pitch (P2) than a
pitch (P1) of a common thread ridge or a less pitch (P3) than the
pitch (P1) of the common thread ridge.

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8. (amended) The fastener according to claim 2, wherein the special thread ridges (422) comprise a thin layer of a special nylon resin formed on a common thread ridge (421).

9. (amended) The fastener according to claim 2, wherein the special thread ridges (422) comprise a common thread ridge formed of an elastic body. 5

11. (amended) The fastener according to claim 2, wherein the special thread ridges (422) are not provided and a part of thread ridges of a second thread (22) of the movable collar (20) or of a thread (31) of a torque transmitting nut (30) comprises thread ridges obtained by subjecting common thread ridges to compressive deformation in a diametrical direction.

13. (amended) The fastener according to claim 2, wherein the special thread ridges (422) are not provided and a part of thread ridges of a second thread (22) of the movable collar (20) or of a thread (31) of a torque transmitting nut (30) has a greater pitch (P2) than a pitch (P1) of a common thread ridge or a less pitch (P3) than the pitch (P1) of the common thread ridge.

15. (amended) The fastener according to claim 2, wherein the special thread ridges (422) are not provided and thread ridges of a second thread (22) of the movable collar (20) or of a thread (31) of a torque transmitting nut (30) is formed thereon with a thin layer of a special nylon resin.

16. (amended) The fastener according to claim 2, wherein the special thread ridges (422) are not provided and a part of thread ridges of a second thread (22) of the movable collar or of a thread (31) of a torque transmitting nut (30) comprises common thread ridges formed of an elastic body.

18. (amended) The fastener according to claim 2, wherein the special thread ridges (422) of the bolt (40) comprise thread ridges obtained by subjecting common thread ridges to compressive deformation in a diametrical direction, and said special thread ridges are additionally formed in either of the second thread (14) of the nut or the first thread (21) of the movable collar within a range over which they can be threaded each other at the time of completion of clamping.

20. (amended) The fastener according to claim 2, wherein the special thread ridges (422) of the bolt (40) have a greater pitch (P2) than a pitch (P1) of a common thread ridge or a less pitch (P3) than the pitch (P1) of the common thread ridge, and said special thread ridges are additionally formed in either of the second thread (14) of the nut or the first thread (21) of the movable collar within a range over which they can be threaded each other at the time of completion of clamping.

22. (amended) The fastener according to claim 2, wherein the special thread ridges (422) comprise a thin layer of a special nylon resin formed on a common thread ridge (421), and said special thread ridges are additionally formed in either of the second thread (14) of the nut or the first thread (21) of the movable collar within a range over which they can be threaded each other at the time of completion of clamping.

23. (amended) The fastener according to claim 2, wherein the special thread ridges (422) comprise a common thread ridge formed of an elastic body, and said special thread ridges are additionally formed in either of the second thread (14) of the nut or the first thread (21) of the movable collar within a range over which they can be threaded each other at the time of completion of clamping.

Please add new claims 25-36 as follows:

-- 25. (new) The fastener according to claim 3 wherein the special thread ridges (422) comprise thread ridges obtained by subjecting common thread ridges to compressive deformation in a diametrical direction.

26. (new) The fastener according to claim 3, wherein the special thread ridges (422) have a greater pitch (P2) than a pitch (P1) of a common thread ridge or a less pitch (P3) than the pitch (P1) of the common thread ridge.

27. (new) The fastener according to claim 3, wherein the special thread ridges (422) comprise a thin layer of a special nylon resin formed on a common thread ridge (421).

28. (new) The fastener according to claim 3, wherein the special thread ridges (422) comprise a common thread ridge formed of an elastic body. 5

29. (new) The fastener according to claim 3, wherein the special thread ridges (422) are not provided and a part of thread ridges of a second thread (22) of the movable collar (20) or of a thread (31) of a torque transmitting nut (30) comprises thread ridges obtained by subjecting common thread ridges to compressive deformation in a diametrical direction.

30. (new) The fastener according to claim 3, wherein the special thread ridges (422) are not provided and a part of thread ridges of a second thread (22) of the movable collar (20) or of a thread (31) of a torque transmitting nut (30) has a greater pitch (P2) than a pitch (P1) of a common thread ridge or a less pitch (P3) than the pitch (P1) of the common thread ridge.

31. (new) The fastener according to claim 3, wherein the special thread ridges (422) are not provided and thread ridges of

a second thread (22) of the movable collar (20) or of a thread (31) of a torque transmitting nut (30) is formed thereon with a thin layer of a special nylon resin.

32. (new) The fastener according to claim 3, wherein the special thread ridges (422) are not provided and a part of thread ridges of a second thread (22) of the movable collar or of a thread (31) of a torque transmitting nut (30) comprises common thread ridges formed of an elastic body.

33. (new) The fastener according to claim 3, wherein the special thread ridges (422) of the bolt (40) comprise thread ridges obtained by subjecting common thread ridges to compressive deformation in a diametrical direction, and said special thread ridges are additionally formed in either of the second thread (14) of the nut or the first thread (21) of the movable collar within a range over which they can be threaded each other at the time of completion of clamping.

34. (new) The fastener according to claim 3, wherein the special thread ridges (422) of the bolt (40) have a greater pitch (P2) than a pitch (P1) of a common thread ridge or a less pitch (P3) than the pitch (P1) of the common thread ridge, and said special thread ridges are additionally formed in either of the second thread (14) of the nut or the first thread (21) of the movable collar within a range over which they can be threaded each other at the time of completion of clamping.

35. (new) The fastener according to claim 3, wherein the special thread ridges (422) comprise a thin layer of a special nylon resin formed on a common thread ridge (421), and said special thread ridges are additionally formed in either of the second thread (14) of the nut or the first thread (21) of the movable collar within a range over which they can be threaded each other at the time of completion of clamping.

36. (new) The fastener according to claim 3, wherein the special thread ridges (422) comprise a common thread ridge formed of an elastic body, and said special thread ridges are additionally formed in either of the second thread (14) of the nut or the first thread (21) of the movable collar within a range over which they can be threaded each other at the time of completion of clamping.--

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R E M A R K S

Claims 4, 6, 8, 9, 11, 13, 15, 16, 18, 20, 22 and 23 were amended to delete the multiple dependency thereof, and new claims 25-36 have been added.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.121(c), a clean copy of amended claims 4, 6, 8, 9, 11, 13, 15, 16, 18, 20, 22 and 23 is set forth in the present Amendment, and a marked-up version of the amended claims 4, 6, 8, 9, 11, 13, 15, 16, 18, 20, 22 and 23 is attached hereto. A marked-up copy of page 1 of the specification, showing the changes made, is also attached.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Claims 4, 6, 8, 9, 11, 13, 15, 16, 18, 20, 22 and 23 have been amended as follows:

4. (amended) The fastener according to claim 2 [or 3], wherein the special thread ridges (422) comprise thread ridges obtained by subjecting common thread ridges to compressive deformation in a diametrical direction.

6. (amended) The fastener according to claim 2 [or 3], wherein the special thread ridges (422) have a greater pitch (P2) than a pitch (P1) of a common thread ridge or a less pitch (P3) than the pitch (P1) of the common thread ridge.

8. (amended) The fastener according to claim 2 [or 3], wherein the special thread ridges (422) comprise a thin layer of a special nylon resin formed on a common thread ridge (421).

9. (amended) The fastener according to claim 2 [or 3], wherein the special thread ridges (422) comprise a common thread ridge formed of an elastic body. 5

11. (amended) The fastener according to claim 2 [or 3], wherein the special thread ridges (422) are not provided and a part of thread ridges of a second thread (22) of the movable collar (20) or of a thread (31) of a torque transmitting nut (30) comprises thread ridges obtained by subjecting common thread ridges to compressive deformation in a diametrical direction.

13. (amended) The fastener according to claim 2 [or 3], wherein the special thread ridges (422) are not provided and a part of thread ridges of a second thread (22) of the movable collar (20) or of a thread (31) of a torque transmitting nut (30) has a greater pitch (P2) than a pitch (P1) of a common thread ridge or a less pitch (P3) than the pitch (P1) of the common thread ridge.

15. (amended) The fastener according to claim 2 [or 3], wherein the special thread ridges (422) are not provided and thread ridges of a second thread (22) of the movable collar (20) or of a thread (31) of a torque transmitting nut (30) is formed thereon with a thin layer of a special nylon resin.

16. (amended) The fastener according to claim 2 [or 3], wherein the special thread ridges (422) are not provided and a part of thread ridges of a second thread (22) of the movable collar or of a thread (31) of a torque transmitting nut (30) comprises common thread ridges formed of an elastic body.

18. (amended) The fastener according to claim 2 [or 3], wherein the special thread ridges (422) of the bolt (40) comprise thread ridges obtained by subjecting common thread ridges to compressive deformation in a diametrical direction, and said special thread ridges are additionally formed in either of the second thread (14) of the nut or the first thread (21) of the movable collar within a range over which they can be

threaded each other at the time of completion of clamping.

20. (amended) The fastener according to claim 2 [or 3], wherein the special thread ridges (422) of the bolt (40) have a greater pitch (P2) than a pitch (P1) of a common thread ridge or a less pitch (P3) than the pitch (P1) of the common thread ridge, and said special thread ridges are additionally formed in either of the second thread (14) of the nut or the first thread (21) of the movable collar within a range over which they can be threaded each other at the time of completion of clamping.

22. (amended) The fastener according to claim 2 [or 3], wherein the special thread ridges (422) comprise a thin layer of a special nylon resin formed on a common thread ridge (421), and said special thread ridges are additionally formed in either of the second thread (14) of the nut or the first thread (21) of the movable collar within a range over which they can be threaded each other at the time of completion of clamping.

23. (amended) The fastener according to claim 2 [or 3], wherein the special thread ridges (422) comprise a common thread ridge formed of an elastic body, and said special thread ridges are additionally formed in either of the second thread (14) of the nut or the first thread (21) of the movable collar within a range over which they can be threaded each other at the time of completion of clamping.

DESCRIPTION

FASTENER
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5 TECHNICAL FIELD

The invention relates to a fastener capable of clamping members, which are to be clamped and are spaced a certain spacing from each other, while maintaining a clearance
10 therebetween and absorbing some possible scatter in the spacing or some possible axial deviation.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

15 United States Patent No. 5,288,191 for Edvald Rucker et al discloses a conventional fastener of the same kind as described above, which fastener involves a high manufacturing cost since it is composed of many constituent elements and a part of the elements is special in shape. Further, since
20 forces required for movements of the constituent elements for holding of a predetermined spacing rely on a pushing force of and torque of a bolt-like member inserted into the constituent elements under frictions, an operator for performing clamping of the fastener is required to rotate the
25 bolt-like member while applying a pushing force, so that handling of the fastener is complicated. In addition, since the fastener has no positive loosening preventive function, application of the fastener has been difficult under circumstances under much vibrations.

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DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION

The invention has been devised in order to solve the

--This application is a U.S. National Phase Application under 35 USC 371 of International Application PCT/JP01/06421 (not published in English) filed July 26, 2001.--